
 <h1>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (A)</h1> <h2>Mass Times and Intentions</h2> <h3>Divine Office – Psalter Week 1</h3> 		
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	11.00am	Michael Lynch (Anniversary)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.30am	Eamon O'Neill
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>9.30am</b>	Eileen Prescott
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Pat Johnson
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Prendergast Family

## Sunday Liturgy

<b>Proper of the Mass</b>		<b>p. 82</b>
Profession of Faith	Nicene	p. 11
Preface	Advent I	p. 65
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 3	p. 28

## The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December



**For Christians in areas of conflict.** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

**December** is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. "From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity."



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## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (A)

### 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025



**The Season of Advent**

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah we hear the prophet in the early part of the 8th century BC extolling the future blessings of greatness for Jerusalem which was about to be destroyed by the Assyrians. Jerusalem was looked upon by the Jews as the centre of the world, and the Lord's seat of presence and power rested there. Now it was about to be destroyed, but a new day would come and it would again shine with eternal light. Isaiah's purpose was to get the people to prepare for that time, to return to the Lord, and not wait another minute. We must do the same and for the same reasons.

The Responsorial Psalm takes up the same theme, but at a time much later when the Israelites were returning from their exile in Babylon. They finally got the message that Isaiah had preached earlier. They were now returning to Jerusalem and were realizing a dream that had eluded them for over 50 years.

The Second Reading we hear Paul exhort the early Christians to prepare for the coming of the Lord. This "Letter" was written during a very difficult time for the early Christians, much like the Jews of Isaiah's time. Conditions were much the same except that this time it was the Romans who were about to destroy Jerusalem. Paul counsels the Christians to be ready to suffer, if necessary, for their faith and their God.

In the Gospel Reading we hear what is often referred to as the "little apocalypse" or Jesus' prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later in 70 AD. Here, as in St. Paul's letter above, the early Christians are counselled to pray and prepare for what will seem to them to be the "end of the world." However, for those who are living according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the end of this world is only the beginning of heaven.

The readings at the end of Ordinary Time (last Sunday) and the first part of Advent (today) are full of what appears to be gloom and doom; but they are only reminders that this life, this world, is only temporary and we should be looking to the future, to the New Jerusalem in heaven. That doesn't mean that we should not enjoy life here on earth, but it does mean that we should be prepared because "we know not the day or the hour."



## Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

### Christmas Raffle

The Finance & Admin Committee are holding a Christmas Raffle to boost Church Funds. Tickets are on sale in the Church Shop up until the 14th December.

Please pay a visit to the Church Shop to help our cause

Tickets on sale Now!!! 50p each - a book of 5 only £2.50

Lots of prizes, see the poster in the Porch for more details.

**Please return counterfoils to the shop no later than 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

### Carol Service with St James

We will be holding a joint Advent Service of Readings and Carols with the parishioners of St James Church. It will take place at St James at 6.00pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**We need four people to do Readings during the Service – would anyone like to volunteer?**

### Portico Fundraisers

Our Christmas tombola and plant sale will be held in the parish hall over the weekend of 13/14 December. Order forms for the plants must be returned by the 29/30 November. Please note ALL ORDERS ARE CASH ONLY. Thank you for your support.

### St Helens Choral Society

St Helens Choral Society present their Christmas concert *‘Comfort & Joy’* on Saturday 6th December, 7.30pm at St Luke’s Church, Knowsley Road, St Helens. Come and enjoy a celebration of Christmas music including festive favourites. Admission £15 (£1 under 16s) pay on the door.

### Archbishop Malcolm McMahon – Silver Jubilee

Archbishop Emeritus Malcolm McMahon OP will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination with Mass at 12.00pm on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Metropolitan Cathedral. All are welcome.

### First Holy Communions 2026

Parents and guardians of Baptised children in Year 4 and above who wish to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are welcome to join the “With You Always” programme. Please call Denise Liptrot (preferably after 6.00pm) on 07726 286 363 as soon as possible with your name and contact details.

### Metropolitan Cathedral – A Celebration of Christmas

A Celebration of Christmas returns this year on Saturday 13 December with a night of musical cheer, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit. Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family. Tickets: £10 each/ £18 family, available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

## Feast Days This Week

### Monday

**St Charles de Foucauld** – Born the Vicomte de Foucauld de Pontbriand in Strasbourg in 1858, Charles was brought up by his grandfather, having been orphaned at the age of six. He trained at the prestigious French Saint-Cyr Military Academy and joined the cavalry, enjoying an extravagant lifestyle. Posted to North Africa, his values changed, and he entered a Trappist monastery in France. After Ordination in 1901, he chose to live as a hermit in the Sahara among the Tuareg people. Although greatly respected by them, he was shot dead in a raid by bandits who were trying to kidnap him. His inspiration and writings led to the founding of the Little Brothers of Jesus and a number of similar religious communities. He was canonised by Pope Francis in 2020.

**St Ralph Sherwin and Martyrs of the Venerable English College** – The first registered student of the pontifical seminary, from Derbyshire, was hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn on this day in 1581, alongside the Jesuits St Edmund Campion and St Alexander Bryant. He became the first of forty four saints, blesseds and venerable alumni of the college martyred over the succeeding century.

### Tuesday

**St Chromatius** - Bishop praised by St. Jerome. He was a native of Aquileia, Italy, and participated in the Synod of Aquileia that condemned Arianism in 381. Seven years later he became the bishop of the see. A friend of St. Jerome, Chromatius also encouraged Rufinus to translate Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History. He was known and revered as a scholar and was described by St. Jerome as "a most learned and most holy man." Chromatius was also a friend of St. John Chrysostom. Part of Chromatius' commentary on St. Matthew is extant.

### Wednesday

**St Francis Xavier** – He was born in Spain in the year 1506. When studying at Paris he joined St Ignatius and was ordained priest at Rome in 1537. He was one of the seven priests who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He spent himself in works of charity and in 1541 he went to the East where for ten years he preached the Gospel in India and Japan where he converted many tens of thousands to the true faith. He died in the year 1552 on the Chinese island of Shangchuan. He was one of the first Jesuits, and possibly the Church’s greatest missionary since St Paul. He is the patron saint of foreign missions.

### Thursday

**St John Damascene** – He was born in Damascus of a Christian family in the seventh century. He became a monk in the monastery of St Sabbas near Jerusalem and there was ordained priest. Proficient in philosophy, he wrote extensively about doctrine, especially against those who urged the destruction of sacred images during the Iconoclastic Controversy. He died in the middle of the eighth century., and was the last but one of the Fathers of the Eastern Church and her greatest poet

### Friday

**St John Almond** – He was born in Allerton, Liverpool, and educated at Much Woolton, then in Ireland, Reims and Rome. After ordination to the priesthood in 1598 he returned to this country to work on the English Mission from 1602 until his arrest in 1608, when he was imprisoned for a time, then again in 1612. He was martyred at Tyburn on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1612. His final oration on the scaffold concluded with the words, “To use this life well is the pathway through death to everlasting life.” Beatified in 1929, he was canonised in 1970 as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales.

### Saturday

**St Nicholas** – He was a 4<sup>th</sup> Century bishop of Myra, south western Turkey, and although he is one of the most venerated saints in both East and West, virtually nothing is known of his life. He was reputed to have given three bags of gold to three girls for their marriage dowries in order to save them from prostitution. “Santa Claus” is based on his patronage of children, who in the Low Countries receive presents on his feast in remembrance of his charity.

